

REMARKS

Claims 13-26 were previously pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 16 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and no new claims are currently added. Consequently, claims 13, 14 and 17-23 are currently pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 23-26 are allowed, and that previously-pending claims 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Reconsideration of the present application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 13-15 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Torres. However, the Examiner has also indicated that previously-pending claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim 13 and intervening claim 15. (Examiner's Office Action, page 5). Claim 13 is currently amended to include the exact language of previously-pending claims 15 and 16. Consequently, claim 13 is allowable over Torres. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejection of claim 13 and its dependent claims 14, 15 and 19-22.

Conclusion

All matters set forth in the Office Action have been addressed. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early indication of allowability are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney would expedite consideration, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



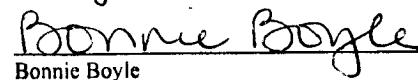
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Bonnie Boyle